FRASER MAGNOLIA

Magnolia fraseri Walt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Mountain magnolia, Ear-leaf cucumber tree, Long-leaved cucumber tree.

FORM: Height 30-40 feet, with straight or inclining trunk 12-18 inches in diameter, often undivided for half of its length, or separating at the ground into a number of stout diverging stems with wide spreading or more or less contorted branches.

BARK: Rarely more than 1/3 inch thick, dark brown, smaoth with small excrescences, broken into minute scales on old trees.

TWIGS Brittle; soon become bright red, lustrous, grayish the second year.

LEAVES: Obovate-spatulate, acute or bluntly pointed at apex, cordate and markedly auriculate at base, bright green, often red along the veins on the upper surface, l0-12 inches long, 6-7 inches wide, sometimes twice that size on young vigorous plants; they fall in autumn without change of color.

FLOWERS Borne on glabrous pedicels l-l l/2 inch long, pale yellow, sweet-scented, 8-10 inches across, sepals narrowly obovate, rounded at apex, 4-5 inches long, deciduous almost immediately after the opening of the bud, shorter than the obovate petals of which there are 6-9.

FRUIT: Oblong, glabrous, bright red when ripe, 4-6 inches long, 1 1/2-2 inches thick; mature carpels end in long subulate persistent tips; seeds obovoid, compressed 5/8 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal, glabrous, purple 1 1/2-2 inches long, 1/2 inch thick; axillary buds minute, obtuse.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, not strong, light brown, cream-colored sapwood.

USES: Landscaping

HABITAT: Valleys of streams of Southern Appalachian Mountains.

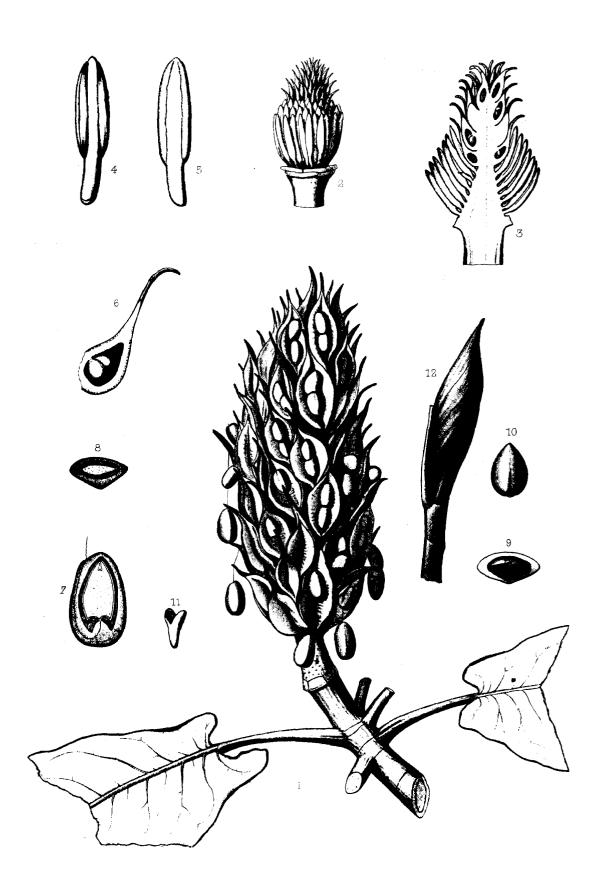
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves fall in autumn without change of color; mature carpels with long subulate persistant tips; leaves auriculate at base.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from northern part of the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- 1. A fruit
- 2. A flower, the calyx and corolla removed
- 3. Vertical section of the same
- 4. A stamen, posterior view
- 5. A stamen, anterior view
- 6. Vertical section of a carpel
- 7. Vertical section of a seed
- 8. Cross section of a seed

- A seed, the base of the pulpy portion of the testa removed, showing the stony interior portion
- 10. A seed, the fleshy part of the testa removed, showing the grooved stony portion
- 11. An embryo
- 12. A winter bud



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Plate 65